

Lack of space will not permit an extended account of his multitudinous duties as Governor. One of the things over which he earnestly labored was to defend the civil authority against the encroachments of the military power. He also may be given credit, in large part, for the securing of the admission of negro testimony, in spite of the opposition of those who were soon after to favor unqualified negro suffrage and to form the nucleus of the Republican party in the State. Everything that he could do, in honor, to secure the restoration of North Carolina to her normal relations to the union was done. Meanwhile certain politicians, whose only consistency had been in the frequency of their change of opinions when self-interest dictated it, slandered him and covered him with abuse. But he was not the man to be influenced by this and pursued his own course regardless of their opposition.

When the reconstruction acts were passed in 1867 he at first favored an attempt to bring them before the Supreme Court of the United States for a decision as to their constitutionality. But, acting on the advice of Judge Thomas Ruffin, he consulted former Justice Curtis, then a lawyer in Massachusetts, who agreed with Judge Ruffin that any effort of the kind would be futile. Consequently he declined to join with the other Southern governors who were preparing to make the attempt.

When General Sickles assumed command of the Second Military District he reposed the greatest confidence in Governor Worth's judgment and frequently consulted him, even having him come to Charleston as his guest for the purpose. He was consulted by General Sickles in regard to every appointment for North Carolina, and his advice was usually accepted. But there was much in the carrying out of the congressional policy that he could not approve, and he often expressed himself fully to General Sickles and to the President. As for the plan of reconstruction adopted it is needless to say that he was strongly opposed to it.

When General Canby took command there was a different condition of affairs, for he was regardless of the wishes of the people of the State, and equally regardless of their laws. But Governor Worth, in one instance at least, did the State a service with him. By his vigorous protests he prevented the appointment of A. W. Tourgee as Superior Court Judge, and secured that of Colonel Clinton A. Cilley, who made an excellent officer.